

Symposium Summary of air chief invitation program

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The official titles and military ranks used in this article are the ones when the symposium took place.

The Japan Air Self Defense Force (JASDF) marked the 60th anniversary of its foundation in 2014 by holding the “Air Chief’s Dialogue in Japan (ACDJ)” from Thursday October 23rd through Monday October 27th in the same year. The JASDF invited air force chiefs and commanders from countries with close relationships with Japan.

The ACDJ symposium was attended by the air chiefs or commanders from Australia, India, Indonesia, UK, USA, Vietnam and Japan. It took place on the 24th of October. The symposium’s theme was “Future Air Power,” and was divided into two sessions.

Session 1: Roles for the stabilization of the Asia-Pacific Region

Session 2: Air power and science technology

The symposium consisted of presentations and an exchange of views.

The purpose of the symposium was to exchange views, identify a common agenda and promote mutual understanding between the air force delegates. It was particularly important to forecast the future, to picture how the defense capability of one’s own country should be, in order to reform organizations and lead personnel, as well as to deter or deal with contingencies. This is especially true for air forces, since the build-up of defense capability requires a long time, so it was necessary for the air force delegates to establish common viewpoints and to discuss what the future of air power should be, focusing an air power’s roles and relationship with the noticeable progress in science and technology. The air forces must cooperatively chart a course to take to provide stabilization

and prosperity for the Asia-Pacific Region. On the other hand, grey zone situations, and large-scale natural disasters frequently occur in the Asia-Pacific Region, and there are a number of issues concerning territory, sovereignty and economic interests.”

First, General Lori J. Robinson, Commander of United States Pacific Air Forces, made a keynote address entitled “Future Air Force.” She was followed by General Harukazu Saito, Chief of Air Staff, JASDF, who delivered the following lecture entitled “Future Roles of JASDF.”

Future Roles of JASDF

Blue Sky Leads to Tomorrow

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. As Chief of Air Staff, JASDF, it is a great honor to speak in front of my fellow air chiefs and commanders today.

JASDF marks the 60th anniversary of our establishment this year. The catchphrase for the anniversary is “Blue Sky Leads to Tomorrow.” The meaning of this phrase is to pass peaceful world represented as blue sky onto the next generation. So, let me talk about what kinds of roles JASDF will play in the Asia-Pacific Region for peaceful future.

Today, economic globalization and advancement of science and technology have expanded and deepened interdependence among countries. Not a single country could maintain peace and stability on its own. Even though we are geographically separated from each other, the countries present today are the ally or cooperative partners.

Let me first look at the overview of the current situation of security environment. In addition to lingering tensions of the Cold War, we have seen such challenges against the existing framework of international society as use of force to unilaterally change the status quo by a country that aims to be a new major actor to create a new international order as its national power grows.

Furthermore, threats such as large-scale disasters and international terrorism by non-state actors are becoming more borderless. While multilateral response is needed to maintain and restore peace and stability in specific regions, air power roles have expanded and diversified.

Next, I would like to talk about the field of science and technology. Recent developments in science and technology, particularly the great advancement of Information and Communication Technology, have brought substantial changes into various fields of society, and it

is no exception in the military field. We are now able to share information easily and execute command and control promptly through network, which ensures further superiority in battle space awareness and efficient force employment.

However, as science and technology continue to develop, we have increased dependency on outer space and cyberspace. These two arenas are now widely recognized as a new domain of warfare. In outer space, anti-satellite missile tests have been conducted, which constitutes a grave threat against free and stable use of outer space. In cyberspace, cyber-attacks through network pose serious impacts on international society.

As a result, risks of impeding free access to global commons such as outer space and cyberspace as well as the ocean and airspace, are growing and emerging as a great challenge in international society.

Under the transformation of security environment, the future roles of air power can be roughly divided into traditional and non-traditional roles. Whereas the traditional role is to achieve air superiority with air strikes, the non-traditional role is to stabilize regions in peacetime by reconstruction, peace-keeping and disaster recovery efforts after natural disasters. The agility, swiftness and versatility of air power which have been demonstrated in wartime also work effectively in non-traditional arena such as airlift capabilities in disaster relief missions.

On the other hand, air power also has some disadvantages. For example, unlike ground forces, air power is not persistent in time and areas. Even if it eliminates threats, it is difficult to maintain the situation for a long period of time. Furthermore, if terrorists are blended in with civilian people, it is very hard to attack the targeted terrorists only. At the same time, we cannot avoid taking a risk of collateral damage. Recent technological developments are making it possible to conduct continuous ISR by UAVs and such, and to minimize unexpected casualties by precision attacks. In this context, however, it is extremely difficult to win a war with air power alone. We need to synchronize with ground and naval operations from early phases to effectively deal with threats under expected war scenarios. However it sometimes leads to escalation of combat. That is why it becomes more important to tell state-will-deciding political leadership about these characteristics accurately and to provide them with most appropriate options.

JASDF will make further effort in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region while continuing to play the traditional role, air defense of Japan. We have seen the advancement of ballistic missile capabilities and intensified aircraft activities in areas sur-

rounding Japan. The number of JASDF scrambles was 944 times in 1984 amid the intensive Cold War, and it scored 810 times last year. We need to adopt a posture that enables us to gain air superiority in any situation to deal with such intensified military activities by our neighboring countries. For this reason, we will build up our defense capabilities to gain air superiority by introducing F-35 and UAVs, enhancing our air defense and response capabilities against ballistic missiles and strengthening our persistent ISR activities in close cooperation with the ally.

While we continue to play the traditional role of deterrence and response because of the security environment surrounding us, I believe Japan's own effort is indispensable for preventing destabilization in East Asia.

JASDF will also strengthen such non-traditional capabilities as HA/DR with C-2 transportation aircraft, which is to be introduced in the near future, new in-flight refueling and transport aircraft and so on, in order to play a significant role in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region.

However, we need to pursue more effective use of budget at the same time in these financially challenging times. International joint development is one of our options in procuring new defense equipment. We expect that joint developments with other countries will not only reduce costs but also strengthen the relationship of trust, improve interoperability and increase transparencies among participating countries. This April, the Japanese Government adopted the "Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology," which creates an environment that allows us to be more proactively involved in international joint developments and transfer of defense equipment to the partners. We consider these efforts will also contribute to the stabilization of the region.

Next, let me briefly talk about our security legislation. This July, the Cabinet decision was made on development of seamless security legislation. When the legislation is implemented in the near future, we will be able to engage in peace keeping operations and actions based on the right of collective self-defense more actively. Moreover, security legislation in Japan is highly beneficial for maintaining peace and security in the entire region because it enables us to cooperate with the ally regardless of peacetime or wartime. The other point that we should emphasize is HA/DR operations. Destabilization of people's livelihood caused by large-scale natural disasters brings national or regional chaos, and it might be a potential trigger to cause a security issue in the Asia-Pacific Region. So quick recovery and stabilization by HA/DR operations help save victims for humanitarian purposes, which

also directly serve the purpose of stabilizing the region and maintaining peace on a long term basis.

As I mentioned earlier, multilateral cooperation is required, particularly for HA/DR operations to put regional stabilization into effect, and it is necessary to improve interoperability among cooperating countries to make it happen. Speaking of measures of improving interoperability, we are likely to think about standardization of defense equipment with other countries, however, it is hard to discover common defense equipment among Asia-Pacific countries. So, it is important to improve international coordination efficiency by sharing standard operating procedure (SOP) with each other for the purpose of smooth cooperation. We always have to common SOP fixed. I believe we need interoperability in “software” of operating units.

JASDF has spent sixty years since our establishment to enhance high interoperability with the U.S. forces which is indispensable for maintaining peace in Asia, and it is necessary to spread out operational interoperability among the regional countries. In order to do so, I believe it is important to put the idea of sharing the SOP among countries into action. Once again, the advantages of air power are agility, swiftness and such. I believe the common SOP, especially for early phases of HA/DR operations, should be necessary in order that we can demonstrate the air power’s advantages to the best of our ability. I am aware that there are two existing international SOPs, so I would like to take advantage of these concepts and brush them up into more practical measures among us.

“The Blue Sky” is also something that we should share, and Japan alone cannot pass it onto the next generation. The countries present today should bring our power together and spread out “the blue sky” full of hopes. Thank you very much.

Next, the first session started.

The 1st session’s subject was “Roles for the stabilization of the Asia-Pacific Region.” In the session, Air Marshal Geoff Brown, Chief of Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, gave a presentation on “the roles which future air forces should take for the sake of stabilization in the Asia-Pacific Region,” and Lt General Phuong Minh Hoa, Commander of Air Defense – Air Force of Vietnam, did one on “the future of air force.” These presentations made us understand mutually that it is important for the air forces to cooperatively promote the stabilization of the region on the basis of rules and standards. Especially, we realized the

necessity of the region's entire cooperation not only in traditional security matters but also in non-traditional matters. We talked on the necessity of building the cooperation system by many countries including air forces in case of disaster relief for earthquakes or floods, search and rescue, and counter-piracy. And also, we confirmed that air power is required not only to deal with traditional military threats but to take full spectrum of roles from prevention to reconstruction and to stabilization while security threats become even more diversified. Additionally, we highly appreciated that bringing synergy through multilateral cooperation is important for the stabilization of the Asia-Pacific Region.

The 2nd session's subject was "Air Power and Science Technology." In this session, Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, gave a presentation on "Air Power and Science Technology," Air Chief Marshal Ida Bagus Putu Dunia, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Air Force, on "The future of air power: the perspectives of the Indonesian Air Force, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford, Chief of the Air Staff, Royal Air Force, on "Two decades at the Chuo Keiba," whose presentation was full of humor. This session made us realize that air force development has a close relation to science technology and that it is essential to innovate drastically-progressing science technology as rapidly as possible. As today's development of Information and Communication Technology shows, air weapon system is expanding into the sky, outer space and cyberspace. So, we should continue to understand the fact. It will be more and more important in the future to introduce new science technology into air power. It's also necessary in view of stable utilization of new domains of outer space, cyberspace, etc. that are indispensable for the performance of air power. There are some difficulties in research and development of technology. They are not only the development of weapons but the ways to foresee the future, to utilize new technology, and to train human resources. We deepened our perception that as much cooperation and collaboration as possible among nations within the region would efficiently and effectively enhance global technological capabilities.

Lastly, General Harukazu Saito, Chief of Air Staff, JASDF, concluded the symposium by the following statement.

What we found from today's presentations is that it is of significant importance for the countries to pay respect to international law and custom. Furthermore, there is necessity for Law and Order to be applied not only to air domain, but also to outer space and cyberspace. The valuable views that each Air Chief or Commander presented to us today should not only be shared among our friends who have gathered here, but also be spread to all the countries in the region so that we can work together under the same understanding.

Of course, we, Japan Air Self Defense Force, will continue to play a responsible role for peace, stability and prosperity of the region and of the world through engaging in missions actively both for defense of Japan and for International Peace Cooperation Activities.

It has been, and it will always be no one else but us, air forces, that are responsible for ensuring the order and stability in the sky. This symposium is our first step forward in our effort to achieve that. It would be our great pleasure if this symposium could further deepen mutual understanding among the participating Air Chiefs and Commanders, and be the beginning of the cooperation toward the blue sky leading to tomorrow. Thank you so much for your attendance today.